

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 25 April 2023

**BY:** Police Scotland

**SUBJECT:** The Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-2026

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To present Council with the Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-2026.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Council approves the Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan 2023-2026, set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 There is a statutory requirement in the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 for the Local Authority to approve both the Local Police and Fire and Rescue Plans before they can be published.

- 3.2 The Lothians and Scottish Borders Policing Plan 2023-2026 has been produced by the Divisional Commander for Lothians and Scottish Borders following extensive consultation with the public, partners and key stakeholders across the area. Through the consultation, coupled with both the national and divisional strategic assessment, the priorities identified were consistent across the four local authority areas policed by the Lothians and Borders Division. It reflects the overall purpose of Police Scotland, which is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

- Protecting vulnerable people in a physical and digital world;
- Reducing violent crime and anti-social behaviour;
- Tackling acquisitive crime;
- Tackling serious and organised crime;
- Improving road safety.

- 3.3 The plan aims to provide a clear set of objectives to tackle the aforementioned priorities. Pages 11-25 of the plan outline the consistent response we will progress across the Division whilst also identifying some specific local community-based activities within the different local authority areas. The purpose of presenting the plan in this format is to ensure it demonstrates the difference between the generic policing approach and

local activity whilst also taking the opportunity to identify good practice across each local authority area, which may be suitable for consideration in a wider divisional context.

- 3.4 The plan details how local policing will seek to deliver better outcomes for communities in East Lothian over the next three years and provides the basis for scrutiny of Police Scotland's performance by the Police, Fire and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The East Lothian Plan 2017-2027, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan provides a focus based on agreed local priorities and on evidence and analysis of the area and its communities.
- 4.2 The Lothians and Borders Local Policing Plan will make a major contribution to the achievement of outcomes in the East Lothian Plan, in particular around the Community Minded and Fair themes of the LOIP Plan.

#### **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The plan is subject to Police Scotland's Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EQHRIA) process. No negative impacts were found or determined during the assessment process, and the EQHRIA record is held by Police Scotland.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other – None

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Previous Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 [lothians-and-scottish-borders-police-plan-2020-2023.pdf \(scotland.police.uk\)](https://www.scotland.police.uk/media/1042/lothians-and-scottish-borders-police-plan-2020-2023.pdf)

- 7.1 The Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan (Appendix A)

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<b>DATE</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2023

# **The Lothians and Scottish Borders Local Policing Plan**

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## Foreword

As Divisional Commander, I am delighted to present the 2023-2026 Local Police Plan for the Lothians & Scottish Borders Policing Division.

The Police and Fire Reform Act (Scotland) 2012 outlines our purpose, which is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

The Act also places upon me a responsibility to have in place a Local Police Plan to stipulate how I will use my resources to work towards fulfilling that policing purpose.

While we have recently seen a reduction in overall recorded crime, the complexity of crime continues to grow in a number of areas, not least in terms of crime committed in the digital space. We are also contending with a relative increase in incidents that do not relate to criminality but relate to matters impacting on wellbeing.

We often see a police response being provided in the absence of other services. That is why we are focused on working with partners to ensure that people get the right help at the right time – something I anticipate will be a significant part of some of the activities outlined in the Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World (Priority 1).

Policing is relentless. The challenges we have faced since the last Local Policing Plan was developed are testament to that. Our response to COVID, the policing of COP26, our response to the death of her late Majesty, The Queen – these are all indicative of the challenges we rise to.

We know there are further challenges ahead, some of which we can anticipate and others which will emerge during the lifetime of this document. The cost of living crisis and wider economic climate for example will have a significant impact on many aspects of life and will influence our response and approach to vulnerability (Priority 1) acquisitive crime (Priority 3) and serious and organised crime (Priority 4).

This version of the plan will ensure that we stay true to national strategic outcomes while remaining responsive to the unique needs of our communities through the identification of activities tailored to each Local Authority area.

In responding to those issues, it is imperative that we maintain your *trust and confidence*. There are three primary drivers for confidence in policing, and I want those drivers to be reflected in the activities outlined in this plan;

- Values and Behaviours

My officers know that I hold them accountable for HOW they interact with each other and those they serve. I have developed additional training for our staff to help them better understand human behaviour so they are more able to understand how they and others may react in situations but how they can respond in a way that positively influences through connecting, communicating and caring.

- Community Engagement

My commitment to Community Engagement remains. This Local Police Plan has been developed not only through consideration and assessment of police information and data, but in assessing the views provided by local people and partners via engagement and completion of the 'Your Police' online survey. It is this approach which ensures that we are best placed to tackle emerging trends and problems across the Division, whilst underlining our commitment to dealing with the issues that we know matter most to our local communities and stakeholders.

- Visibility

I recognise visibility is something that matters hugely to people and I am not immune or unappreciative of the value and reassurance that seeing the police brings. But our lives are increasingly moving into the virtual or online world. Developments in technology have opened up new opportunities across a number of aspects of daily life. Those developments have also enabled new ways of committing crime. It is vital that our Division equips itself with the knowledge and expertise to prevent, investigate and protect you from cyber related crimes. As such, I want you to know that even when you do not see us in the traditional sense, please be assured we remain very much present and

working within your community to protect you, and those more vulnerable to exploitation.

My desire is for you to feel more connected to your policing team. That connection helps us be accountable to you in delivering the activities that will be undertaken within each Local Authority area. We remain ever conscious of the diverse requirements of different communities across the Division and will work to ensure that our activity is fully reflective of those unique needs.

The statutory duty placed on us by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to work together with partners to deliver shared outcomes and reduce inequalities is reflected throughout this Local Policing Plan.

It is imperative that we remain collaborative and I am committed to working with people, partners and stakeholders to better serve our communities and provide the highest quality of service to East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian and the Scottish Borders.

This plan remains a living document - we will welcome all feedback to ensure our work remain relevant and responsive to local needs both now and into the future.

Chief Superintendent Catriona Paton, Local Police Commander, Lothians & Scottish Borders Division.

## **Local policing delivery**

The Lothians and Scottish Borders Division serves around 505,860 people, over an area of 2,393 square miles, stretching from Blackridge in West Lothian, to Newcastleton in the Scottish Borders, as well as many other towns and villages located across a diverse mix of urban and rural landscapes.

The Division has four territorial command areas aligned to their respective local authorities, namely East Lothian, Midlothian, the Scottish Borders and West Lothian. Each area has a dedicated Local Area Commander (LAC) who is responsible for daily operational policing functions. Each area command is served by response and community policing teams whose actions and activities are defined by the needs of our local community. They respond to local incidents and work with partners to develop preventative solutions to key issues.

The investigation of serious crime and support for vulnerable people is coordinated by a range of specialist divisional investigators who are locally based, and focussed towards the needs of our local communities.

Nationally I have access to a range of resources to support criminal investigations, progress enquiries involving vulnerable people, ensure the safe management of public events, develop engagement with underrepresented groups, and to provide a specialist response to community concerns.

As I touched upon in my foreword, our communities will see many changes over the lifetime of this plan. For example, the increase in population will bring opportunities and challenges. Midlothian is projected to have the highest percentage change in population size out of all 32 council areas in Scotland, increasing by 13.8% by 2028. East Lothian is second with an increase of 7.2% in the same timeframe.

Scotland has an aging population, with older people accounting for a growing proportion of the population. All council areas across the Division have seen an increase in the number of people aged 65 and over. West Lothian has recorded the most significant increase (35.1%) and, along with our health and local authority partners, this is likely to place a greater demand on policing services as we work to protect older and vulnerable persons in our growing populations.



While the diversity of the Lothians and Scottish Borders should be celebrated, we recognise that beyond that diversity there are disparities in socio-economic circumstances. Many people are touched by or experience deprivation and the reality of the cost of living crisis means that many more households will find themselves in those circumstances. This will undoubtedly impact on mental and physical health. We will therefore continue to work collaboratively to tackle inequalities as part of our focus for improving the wellbeing of people, localities and communities.

### **National strategic alignment**

The Scottish Governments National Outcomes/ Strategic Priorities/ Justice Vision are the result of national consultation and have formed the framework for the development of the SPA/Police Scotland Strategic Outcomes. These, in turn, ensure that our Annual Police Plan is clearly aligned to national ambitions.

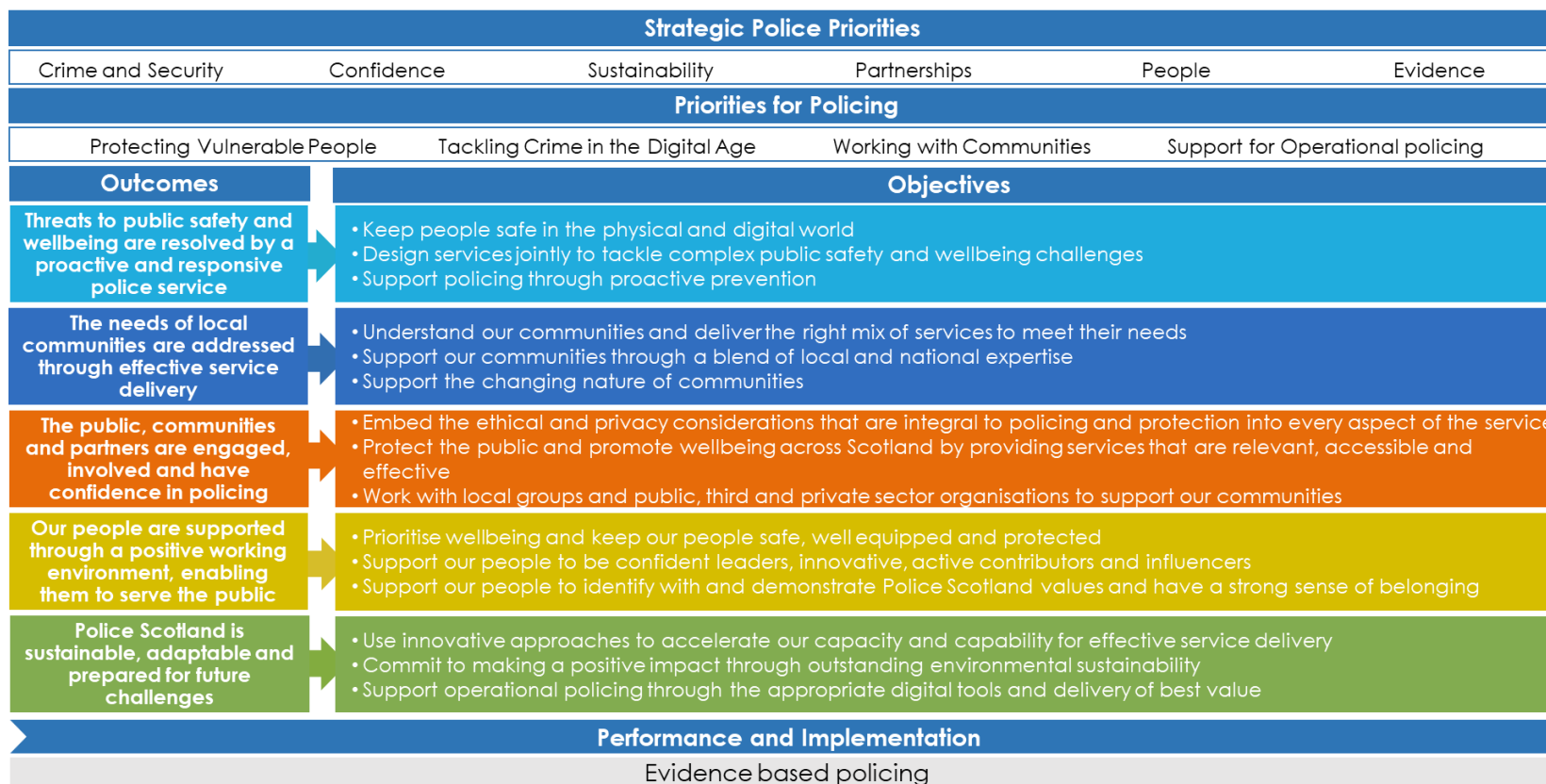
In addition to the Annual Police Plan, Police Scotland's thirteen local policing divisions produce Local Police Plans which are locally focussed on individual priorities, objectives, outcomes and performance measures. They link to wider community planning arrangements, with Local Outcome Improvement Plans taken into account in their development.

At an organisational level there are enabler strategies which provide the frameworks for delivering on our priorities. These include People, Fleet, Estates, Finance, Public Contact and Engagement, Enabling Policing for the Future, Digital Data and ICT, Cyber, Environmental, Procurement, Violence against Women and Girls, Equality Diversity and Inclusion.

## Police Scotland’s strategic objectives



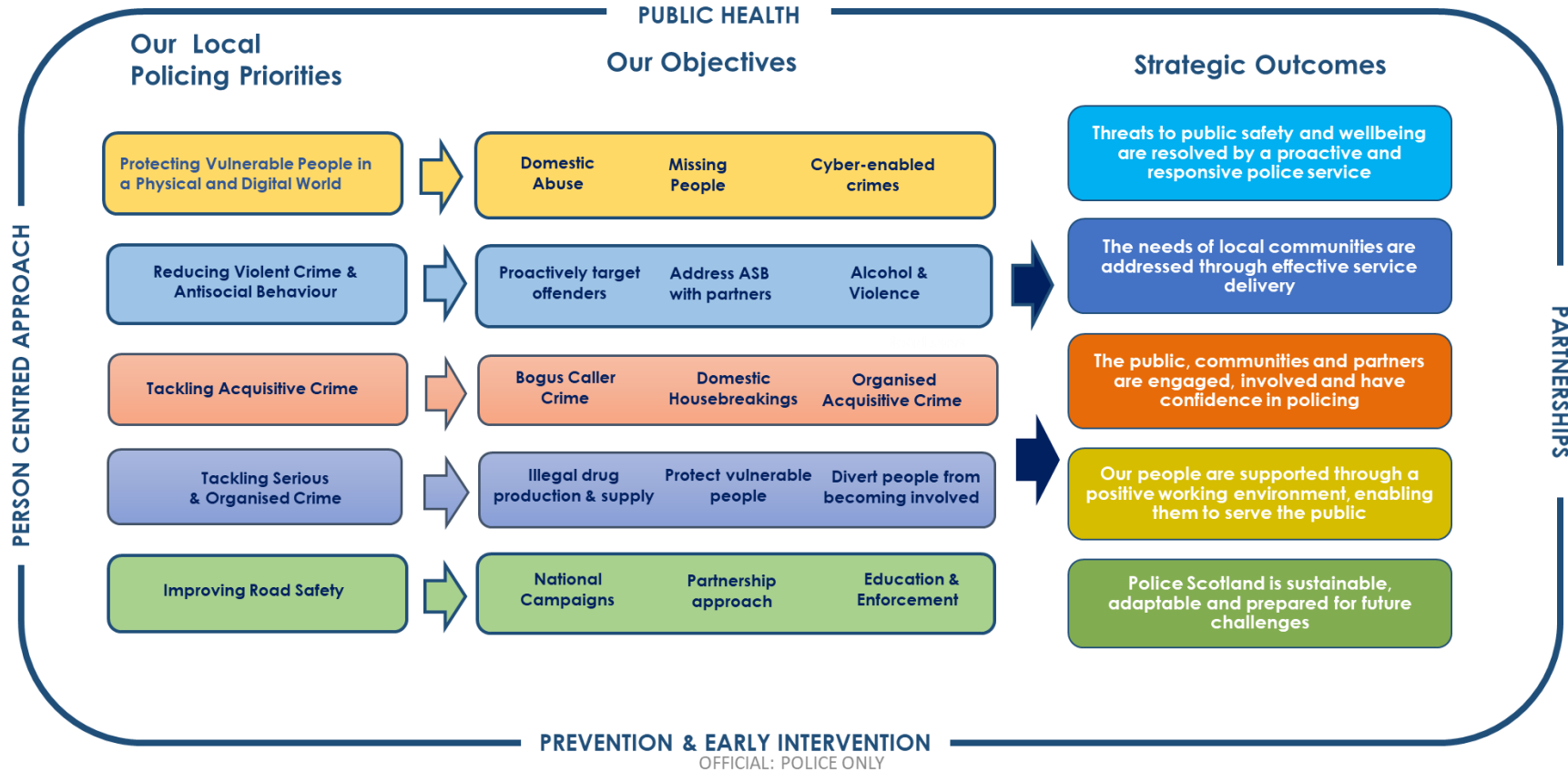
**Our Vision** | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland  
**Our Purpose** | The purpose of policing is to improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland  
**Our Values** | Fairness | Integrity | Respect | Human Rights





**Plan on a Page  
Lothians & Scottish  
Borders Division**

**Our vision** | Policing for a safe, protected and resilient Scotland  
**Our purpose** | Improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland  
**Our values** | Fairness, Integrity, Respect, Human Rights



## **Lothians & Scottish Borders Division – Local Policing Priorities**

We have identified with you a number of priorities which will drive policing activity in your local area over the next three years. We will progress work which is reflective of local needs, working alongside partners to deliver meaningful results.

It is crucial that the priorities reflect the views of communities and we worked hard to maximise engagement and ensure opinions were heard.

We received one of the highest number of responses to the ‘Your Police’ survey which not only illustrates the close relationship we have with the communities we serve, but supports the priorities we have identified.

We also carried out a review of our previous Local Police Plan, together with an assessment of emerging trends and current crime patterns. This has led to the inclusion of the ‘Digital World’ when considering the wellbeing of vulnerable people.

We have identified the following as our priorities for 2023-26:

1. Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World
2. Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
3. Tackling Acquisitive Crime
4. Tackling Serious and Organised Crime
5. Improving Road Safety

## **Protecting Vulnerable People in a Physical and Digital World**

The nature of incidents requiring a policing response has evolved. Over the last three years, the proportion of incidents reported to us which result in a crime being recorded is just under 20%. The majority of reported incidents are non-criminal.

We respond to support vulnerable individuals more than ever before and we expect this demand to increase. We will work with partner agencies to ensure that the right response is provided by the right service at the right time.

We also find ourselves moving more and more from the physical into the digital world. That has brought with it new opportunities for criminals to exploit victims using technology to further their criminality. Our Division will adapt to prevent and investigate crimes that take place in a digital world both now and in the future.

That is not to say that criminality that takes place in the physical world will have less of a focus. Sexual crime has a profound impact on victims, their friends and their families. Recorded numbers of sexual crimes have increased since 2017/18. We will continue to work with partners to help give victims the confidence and trust to be able to report criminality. We remain as resolute as ever in investigating those crimes, bringing offenders to justice and preventing sexual crime from happening.

Domestic abuse also prays on the most vulnerable and has a similarly devastating effect. As such, it remains a priority for Police Scotland. The introduction of Domestic Abuse Scotland Act was an important step forward and has undoubtedly enhanced the ability to both identify and prevent criminality. The additional demand this brings will continue to be prioritised to ensure we both protect those at risk of harm and prevent the commission of domestic offending.

To protect our communities effectively, we will continue to explore innovative technologies and partnerships. We will continue to be a key contributor to local joint planning and delivery, helping drive a shift to prevention and early intervention across services.

**Activity:** Support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence and proactively target those responsible.

Key milestones:

- Continue to work in partnership to share information through the Disclosure Scheme for Domestic Abuse Scotland (DSDAS).
- Work with partners through the MARAC process to effectively share information and manage risk.
- Continue to identify officers and staff as 'Domestic Abuse Champions' to cascade information and training.
- With partners, continue to develop third party reporting systems, to increase confidence in reporting incidents of harm and abuse.
- Continue to deliver the Violence Against Women and Girls Prevention Strategy across all four policing sub-divisions.
- With Partners, provide support for victims of sexual assault.
- Promote local support services including Women's Aid, Rape Crisis and Domestic Abuse Advocacy Support.
- Promote "Bystander" initiative with partners and local communities.
- Participate in the Violence Against Women & Girls "16 days of Action."

Update expected: Y1 Q2 Q4, Y2 Q2 Q4, Y3 Q2 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effectively does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division deal with reports of Domestic Abuse?
- How does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division support victims of sexual crime?

**Activity:** With partners better respond to incidents of missing people.

Key milestones:

- Continue to ensure the 'Herbert Protocol' is implemented to help trace missing people with dementia.
- Share information with partners to better support vulnerable people who are reported missing.
- Continue to deliver the aims of the National Missing Persons Framework for Scotland.
- With Local Authority partners, work to mitigate the risks to young people missing from residential care facilities utilising the "Philomena protocol".

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effectively does Lothians and Scottish Borders Division respond to reports of missing persons?
- What impact are information sharing protocols with partners having in supporting vulnerable people?

**Activity:** With partners work to reduce the impact of cyber-enabled crimes.

Key milestones:

- With partners deliver education and awareness around 'sextortion' incidents, particularly with young people.
- Ensure effective circulation of information regarding cyber enabled crime trends to warn people of the dangers and signs to look out for.
- Provide awareness and information on cyber-crime for partner agencies, particularly those working to support people who may be considered vulnerable.
- Work with relevant statutory and third sector organisations to actively engage young people across the locality.
- Ensure Police officers and staff are equipped with the right knowledge to assist in tackling cyber-enabled crime through regular briefings and training.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How are the Lothians and Scottish Borders working with partners to mitigate the risk of cybercrime?

**Activity:** Work with partners and our community to protect people at risk of harm.

Key milestones:

- Continue to deliver in partnership with Scottish Government, NHS, SAS, Penumbra, SAMH and Support in Mind, Distress Brief Intervention (DBI), which provides immediate and ongoing support to an individual in distress.
- Promote, via social media and with education partners, the “Togetherall” and “Kooth” programs which provide on-line mental health and well-being support services for people of all ages.
- Continue to work with partners and local businesses to promote the “Keep Safe” initiative to provide a safe place for victims of crime or those who find themselves in distress.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How does the Lothians and Scottish Borders protect people at risk of harm?

## **Reducing Violent Crime and Antisocial Behaviour**

Public Confidence Data shows that the majority (81%) of respondents feel safe in their local area. This is reflective of J Division recording the lowest rate of violence per 10k population in the East command area (i.e. Edinburgh, Fife, Forth Valley, and the Lothians and Scottish Borders).



Nevertheless, we recognise there are elements of violent crime which will be of concern to our communities, such as the increasing attempted murder and homicide rate. Common assaults against the public and emergency workers are also at their highest levels for five years.

We also know that antisocial behaviour and youth related disorder concerns our communities. This is despite recorded levels of antisocial behaviour being lower than they have been over the past five years. Since emerging from the restrictions placed on liberty during the pandemic some areas of the Division have seen youth-related disorder and violence. Tackling antisocial behaviour and engaging with young people will therefore continue to be a priority for police and partner agencies.

**Activity:** Work with partners and community groups to prevent and respond to incidents of Anti-social behaviour.

Key milestones:

- Continue to work within a multi-agency framework to provide preventative approaches to antisocial behaviour, including diversionary activities such as “RUTS” and “Heavy Sounds.”
- Proactively target individuals responsible for antisocial behaviour in local communities and ensure full use of powers to prevent further offending such as Antisocial Behaviour Orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.
- Intelligence led deployment of, for example, Community Action Teams / Community Officers to hotspot areas.
- Engage with and educate young people about the impact of antisocial behaviour on communities, for example by utilising school based officers where they exist to provide awareness inputs.
- Work with Local Authorities to effectively utilise mobile CCTV cameras.
- Conduct local seasonal campaigns to disrupt anti-social disorder such as the Summer Coastal Initiative and Halloween and Bonfire Night disorder.
- Work with licensing partners to reduce off-sales of alcohol to persons under 18 and the proxy purchasing of alcohol.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- What impact is the Lothians and Scottish Borders approach having on instances of anti-Social behaviour?

**Activity:** Work with partners to prevent and effectively investigate violent crime.

Key milestones:

- Deliver a police led partnership response as part of 'night time economy' operations.
- Work with community drug and alcohol partnerships to educate at risk groups of the links between alcohol and violence.
- Work jointly with NHS Lothian and NHS Borders to capture under-reporting of violence.
- Work with licensed premises to promote participation in 'Best Bar None'.
- Delivery of inputs to young people such as 'No Knives, Better Lives' and 'Fearless'.
- Utilise proactive tactics to target offenders such as bail checks and execution of warrants.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at tackling serious violent crime?

## **Tackling Acquisitive Crime**

The rate of acquisitive crime has decreased over the last five years. We are alert to the impact the economic climate and the cost of living crisis has on this type of crime, and the reasonable prospect that trend may be reversed.

Housebreaking, vehicle theft and fraud are intrusive crimes and can leave a lasting and profound impact on victims and their families. We are already working with

partners, communities and businesses to reduce opportunities for acquisitive crime to take place.

We are continually monitoring activity of organised travelling criminals who target rural communities given the make-up of our Division. Partnership working with colleagues in bordering English Forces has led to positive intelligence-sharing opportunities and proactive targeting of rural crime.

Fraud increased significantly during the pandemic through a combination of in-person and cyber-enabled crimes. This increase was due to a much increased online prevalence in the carrying out of many daily tasks such as shopping, socialising, communicating, and working. People across generations and communities were affected. The rise in demand for skilled trades also saw reports of bogus workmen and rogue traders increase.

The devastating impact of fraud – for example the loss of life savings – means we are committed to preventing fraud for everyone in society, but particularly for vulnerable groups.

**Activity:** Work with partners to prevent and investigate “door step” and “rogue trader” related crime.

Key milestones:

- Deliver joint training with partners to potential victims, friends, families / carers, neighbours on bogus caller crime and how to protect people vulnerable from falling victim to this.
- Utilise all available methods of communication to alert communities to emerging trends and provide preventative advice.
- Support the expansion of community initiatives such as “No cold calling zones” and Neighbourhood and Rural Watch
- Continue to be active partners in multi-agency initiatives, for example of the West Lothian Financial Harm Group.
- Provide effective support to victims of bogus caller crime to prevent further incidents.

- Through intelligence led operations, proactively target known offenders.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at tackling door step and rogue trader related crime?

**Activity:** Work with partners to prevent and investigate domestic housebreakings across the Lothians and Scottish Borders.

Key milestones:

- Communicate emerging crimes trends and home security advice through all available channels.
- Support the expansion of community initiatives such as 'Neighbourhood Watch' and 'Rural Watch' schemes.
- Expand the use of Architectural Liaison Officers within new housing developments.
- Work with partners to target known offenders and provide diversionary measures to those on the cusp of or vulnerable to becoming involved in criminality.
- Encourage and support the use of products covered by the "Secured By Design" initiative.
- Work with partners and communities to prevent thefts of pedal cycles.
- Through local intelligence led operations, target those responsible for domestic housebreakings.
- Enhance the use of Police Scotland Youth Volunteers to deliver targeted crime prevention information and advice.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How well does the Lothians and Scottish Borders work with partners to prevent domestic housebreaking?

**Activity:** Work with partners to tackle rural organised acquisitive crime.

Key milestones:

- Collaborate with internal and external partners to hold joint operations to disrupt travelling criminals targeting rural communities.
- Regularly communicate crime prevention messages highlighting crime trends around organised acquisitive crime, for example, thefts of motor vehicles and quad bikes.
- Work with local 'Partnership Against Rural Crime' (PARC) groups to share information and hold joint initiatives.
- Utilise national resources, such as the Roads Policing Unit, to support targeted patrols in key areas.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- What impact are Lothians and Scottish Borders approach having on rural organised acquisitive crime?

## **Tackling Serious and Organised Crime**

Serious and Organised Crime Groups (SOCGs) operate in each of our local authority areas. Police Scotland closely monitors the activities of SOCGs across the country, and groups are identified and assessed in terms of risk and impact.

The traditional focus of organised crime has been the supply of controlled drugs, and we know through consultation with communities that drug related issues are a persistent and enduring concern. We have been successful in disrupting this activity because of the intelligence we receive from communities and we need your support to continue this positive work. We know that organised crime goes beyond drugs and reaches into areas such as housebreaking, vehicle theft, and fraud, as well as impacting on the economy through criminal business enterprise. We will work with

partners to deny criminals the opportunity to obtain public sector contracts, to divert young people away from criminality, to seize assets identified as being obtained through criminal activity, and to disrupt criminal networks.

**Activity:** Work with partners to target those involved in the supply of illegal drugs and reduce the harm caused by their use.

Key milestones:

- Through an intelligence led approach, target those profiting from the production, cultivation and supply of illegal drugs.
- Work with public health partners to understand current drug trends and distribute this information to officers and staff.
- Support the rollout of Naloxone to all officers within Lothians and Scottish Borders.
- With partners, identify all non-fatal overdoses and signpost the support pathways that are available.
- Work with Drug and Alcohol Partnerships to ensure a person centred multi agency approach to problem drug and alcohol use.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How are the Lothians and Scottish Borders helping reduce the harm caused by the supply and consumption of controlled substances in our communities?

**Activity:** Work with partners to support people vulnerable to harm from organised criminal activities.

Key milestones:

- Provide regular awareness inputs to partner agencies, stakeholders and communities regarding 'county lines' activity and the signs of 'cuckooing'.
- Review information sharing protocols to ensure appropriate support is implemented for those who may be the victim of 'cuckooing.'

- Work with partners to educate our communities about human trafficking, its impacts and how it can manifest through provision of cheap goods, services and labour.
- Work with HM Immigration services to identify and address instances of Human Trafficking

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How well does Lothians and Scottish Borders identify and support adults and young people at risk of harm?

**Activity:** Work with partners to divert people and communities from becoming involved in serious and organised crime.

Key milestones:

- Continue to deliver the 'Divert' strand of the Organised Crime Strategy for Scotland.
- Work with schools, colleges and HMP Addiewell to support individuals to make positive life choices.
- Through effective information sharing provide early intervention to safeguard individuals from being drawn into crime.
- Raise awareness of the dangers of using counterfeit goods and other products of organised crime.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How does the Lothians and Scottish Borders support Scotland's serious and organised crime strategy?

**Activity:** Tackle crimes commonly associated with organised crime in our rural areas.

Key milestones:

- Through local Partnerships Against Rural Crime (PARCs) provide information to prevent theft of plant and farm vehicles.
- Undertake joint patrols with partners to target hotspot areas.
- Target wildlife crime such as hare coursing and poaching through dedicated days of action.
- Promoting awareness of rural crime at local events such as the Border Union Show.
- Throughout the Lothians and Scottish Borders identify and train wildlife crime champions and draw on the expertise of national specialist resources and partners to support us.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are the Lothians and Scottish Borders at dealing with organised crime in rural areas?

## **Improving Road Safety**

Reducing the number of road casualties and improving road safety remains a local and national priority. Whilst the number of serious injuries has reduced since 2019/20, the number of fatalities on our roads is increasing.

Car drivers and pedestrians accounted for the highest proportion of road deaths in 2021/22. However, the rural nature of roads in the Scottish Borders in particular makes collisions involving motorcyclists a particular priority for that command area. Speeding is often a contributory factor in collisions and this continues to be a high priority for the Division. Officers will work closely with specialist roads policing officers to proactively patrol the road network.

Drink and drug driving remains an ongoing issue within communities in Scotland. Working with Road Policing, we will continue to robustly enforce this legislation. We will also continue to work with local and national partners through our Road Safety



Governance Board to address road safety across all council areas and find common solutions to the issues causing harm on our roads. In doing so, we will both contribute to and be informed by national strategy.

**Activity:** Through collaborative educational inputs promote road safety

Key milestones:

- Support partners to deliver local initiatives such as “Westdrive” “Tomorrows Drivers” and the “Border Union Schools Day”
- Review and expand the implementation of initiatives, such as the Midlothian School Crossing Initiative, into other areas.
- Support the Junior Road Safety officer programme in the Scottish Borders.
- On rural roads, carry out partnership activity targeted at improving the safety of motorcycle riders.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective are Lothians and Scottish Borders activity in improving road safety in the Division?

**Activity:** Deliver national and local enforcement campaigns

Key milestones:

- Support winter drink and drug driving campaigns through targeted patrolling.
- Respond to community concerns around speeding using intelligence led deployments of local and national officers.
- Tackle the issue of dangerous off-road motor cycles with tactics such as Selecta DNA spray while working with partners to provide safe spaces for their use.
- Support national days of action in relation to uninsured / unlicensed drivers, seatbelts and unsafe vehicles.
- Continue to utilise Operation Close Pass

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective is the Lothians and Scottish Borders activity to improve road safety in the division?

**Activity:** Work with partners to mitigate contributing factors to road traffic collisions.

Key milestones:

- Support participation in the national Road Safety Governance Board.
- Work with partners to identify prominent crash locations and support improvements in road design.
- Support work towards the aims of the Scottish Government's 'Road Safety Framework to 2030'.

Update expected: Y1 Q4, Y2 Q4, Y3 Q4

Performance measures and insights:

- How effective is the Lothians and Scottish Borders activity to improve road safety in the division?

## **Our people are supported through a positive working environment, enabling them to serve the public**

The safety and wellbeing of our officers and staff is at the heart of Police Scotland's commitments. The challenges for policing are significant and the part policing plays in daily life will become ever more important as society contends with new challenges. Scrutiny on policing grows and we remain accountable for our actions.

We will create an environment for our staff to be able to work effectively and equip them to make decisions, ensuring they are trusted and empowered to do so.

## **Police Scotland is sustainable, adaptable and prepared for future challenges**

Ongoing political, technological, economic and societal changes as well as incidents and emergencies that are unpredictable yet anticipated, on a local and global scale, require an adaptable police service.

We must plan and prepare to respond to those challenges in order to ensure we can both minimise harmful impacts while maximising the benefits of future opportunities.

This includes working to reduce the impact of our own activity, estates and fleet on the environment. Police Scotland aims to make a significant contribution to the Scottish Government's 2040 carbon neutral target and 2045 zero greenhouse gas emissions target.

Everyone has a role to play in improving financial sustainability, making efficient use of resources and eliminating waste to deliver best value. Procurement of and demand for goods and services will remain under scrutiny, ensuring resources are used in the most efficient way possible to meet the greatest need.

## **Governance and performance**

The Police Scotland Performance Framework links to both local and national police plans, enabling monitoring and measurement of progress on our priorities for policing and strategic outcomes.

Key to delivering excellence in service provision is working collaboratively to support Community Planning Partnerships and upholding the principles of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Our Local Police Plan reflects the priorities that local communities, businesses and organisations have told us matter most to them. We will continue to work with our communities and partners to listen to concerns and ensure we respond effectively to emerging issues.

An overview of local and Divisional performance against our strategic outcomes and local priorities is provided by the Divisional Commander and Local Area Commanders at the relevant Scrutiny Board meetings as per the terms of Section 45 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012.

Local Area Commanders regularly liaise with and provide updates to the community and elected representatives and, to complement this, Community Policing Officers provide local policing ward updates to community councils and residents' groups.

## **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

The work of Police Scotland is underpinned by our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in our interactions with the communities we serve as well as our own staff.

We are committed to developing and promoting best practice in the delivery of our Equality outcomes. These can be found along with our commitment and duties to equality, diversity & inclusion at: [Police Scotland Equality and Diversity](#)

This plan was subject to an Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA) in compliance with the Scottish Public Sector Equality Duty. This document can be found at: (link to follow)

Separate EqHRIAs were undertaken for the activities described in this plan as required.

## **Engaging with us**

If you have information about crime in your area and wish to provide it anonymously, call CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555111. Service users who are deaf or have a hearing impairment can contact Police Scotland via TextRelay on 18001 101 for nonemergency, or 18000 in an emergency.

## **Local Contact Details**

**Scottish Borders**

Galashiels Police Station  
3-4 Bridge Street  
Galashiels  
TD1 1SP  
Telephone:101

**East Lothian**

Haddington Police Station  
39-41 Court Street  
Haddington  
EH41 3AE  
Telephone:101

**Midlothian**

Divisional Headquarters  
Dalkeith Police Station  
Newbattle Road  
Dalkeith  
EH22 3AX  
Telephone:101

**West Lothian**

Livingston Police Station  
West Lothian Civic Centre  
Howden Road South  
Livingston  
EH54 6FF  
Telephone: 101

Meaningful and effective engagement involves genuine dialogue, respect, integrity, transparency and accountability. It provides an opportunity for people to shape our services and influence decisions made. Insight from effective engagement helps identify practical solutions and determine changes required to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

Police Scotland is committed to continuous improvement in all that we do. If you have something to tell us about our service, please contact us at: [Contact Us](#)

Further information about our wider engagement can be found in our consultation and engagement hub at: [Your police survey](#)

Police Scotland has a number of active social media channels that provide a range of information and insight into policing, both nationally and in your local area. A full list of our social media accounts can be found on our website. Our local channels can be found at:

**Twitter**

[Twitter - Midlothian](#)

[Twitter West Lothian](#)

[Twitter East Lothian](#)

[Twitter - Scottish Borders](#)

[Twitter - Lothians and Scottish Borders](#)

**Facebook**

[Police Scotland Midlothian | Facebook](#)

[West Lothian Police - Home | Facebook](#)

[East Lothian Police | Facebook](#)

[Scottish Borders Police | Facebook](#)

[Police Scotland Lothians & Scottish Borders | Facebook](#)

Please note that our social media channels are not monitored 24/7 and should not be used for reporting crime. Please dial 999 in an emergency, and 101 in a non-emergency situation.

#### Inclusive and accessible engagement

We aim to embed accessibility and inclusivity into our services to make them work for everyone.

This Local Police Plan was subject to an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EqHRIA). A summary of the EqHRIA has been published alongside this document at **LINK TO FOLLOW**

This Local Police Plan can be made available in various alternative formats. For more information, please contact us via our online form: [Contact Us](#).

Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers can contact us via Text Relay on 18001101.